

has never been lost sight of. Acadia College is open to all comers, and offers the same liberal advantages to all, irrespective of sect or calling, and yet in an especial manner, guards the interests of our own denomination.

For many years there was in connection with the College a chair of theology, but as this department failed to fully meet the requirements of these later years, the Maritime Baptists were induced to unite with the upper Canadian Baptists in theological education, and utilize all the strength at Acadia in the interests of general education.

That the Baptists of Canada now have in the west a Theological Seminary comparing favorably with any other on this continent, is undeniable, and yet it is equally true that the matter of theological education for the Maritime Provinces is still an unsettled question, and one that at the present time deserves a great deal of attention.

The principal difficulty in the way of successful co-operation with the Canadian Baptists seems to be the great distance and consequent expense of travel as compared with the easy access to the seminaries in New England. Hence, admitting all the difficulties in the way of such a departure at the present time, we question whether anything short of the establishment of a Theological Seminary in these provinces will meet the necessities of the situation, although much might be done to render more accessible to our ministerial students the advantages which these various Theological Seminaries offer. This can best be done by making more generous provision for the students themselves. It is well known that the majority of the men who enter the ministry of our denomination are of scanty means and usually without even a liberal education. To such an one the difficulties in the way of securing a university course can only be realized by experience. Helps are offered to all such cases by the Theological Seminaries, but the student, if he be true to his own interests, and to the demands of his calling, cannot avail himself of these benefits until he has taken the course in Arts.

A certain proportion of the Convention Fund is set aside for the purposes of ministerial education, but the appropriations are so trifling as not to materially affect the circumstances of the student who receives them. By the time one has worried through one or two years in the preparatory department, and four

years in college, he is most likely to have become so involved in debt as to be obliged to forego the advantages of theological training, and put himself up to the highest bidder, as a candidate for the pastorate. Many there are also not even able to secure the full arts course. This is unfortunate indeed, in the present age, when such great demands are being made upon the ministry, and when men of culture as well as talent are needed.

If however, we are only to have one institution, let that be the general university, but let provisions be made whereby every worthy young man who purposes entering the ministry may obtain all the advantages there afforded. During the first years the student is able to do but little for himself. If he has not already won a reputation as a preacher he is likely to meet very little appreciation from the churches, and, in fact, be left to struggle along as best he may. This principle is wrong. The time the student most needs assistance is not after he graduates from the college and begins theological study, but during his first years of study. Let provisions be made, such that young men for the ministry can finish the arts course unencumbered, and they are in a position to take care of themselves. On the other hand the liberal advantages provided by the Theological Seminaries, are simply holding out a temptation to a certain class of men to neglect the arts course. This is the greatest error any man could be led into. If either is to be dispensed with, let it be the theological course.

To the large number of men in these provinces who have taken the course at Acadia, and then been obliged to abandon further preparation, and to the very many who have not even been able to do that, we have great pleasure in presenting the claims of the "Correspondence School of Hebrew," at New Haven, Conn., U. S. A., of which Prof. W. R. Harper, Ph. D. is principal. We quote from Dr. Harper's letter as follows:—"It is a deplorable fact that a large proportion of college men cease almost abruptly from scholarly pursuits when they leave their recitation rooms behind them. There is a reason for this fact, a double reason indeed, in that few men can do their best without some instruction, and without a degree of regularity in their work. A college graduate is far from being fully developed mentally; he is not in any broad sense a scholar. He is rather in the way